



"A Letter to the SACWN Community"

SACWN and the Special Interest Groups (SIG's) have contributed enormously to my social life since arriving in Sacramento. So, I feel a certain obligation to help SACWN in any way I can.

When I moved here from the Bay Area, I found it very difficult to meet women in my age group, which I will call youthfully mature. I certainly knew gays were here 'cause I saw them everywhere --- the movies, restaurants, around the Capitol and, of course, the K Street Mall, but never in a venue that would permit interaction with them.

I lived during the time you could be arrested for just being gay, and of course, fired from your job. So, I was never "out" at work. However, my antenna went up around a particular woman at work and I decided desperate times call for desperate measures. I dropped a few hairpins to see if they would be picked up.

Sure enough, I got a call at home inviting me to a get together of women that weekend. She casually mentioned at the end of our conversation that the group was called Top 10 and was a part of SACWN, then hung up the phone. I had only recently heard of SACWN and that it was a lesbian organization. And, as I too hung up the phone, I said out loud...Thank God! At last a connection to my people.

Over the past ten years, I have been fortunate to establish some wonderful and rewarding friendships with the women I have met through the various SACWN Special Interest Groups. Some of the SIGs may no longer exist, but my friends are still with me.

I have volunteered to be the SACWN contact for the Special Interest Groups. Top 10, Rainbow Campers, Half Fast Hiking Group and Newcomers have remained viable SIGs in our community for quite some time.

A new one coming on board is the "Craftswomen" SIG (see SIG page). Phoenix, our craftswomen facilitator, has enjoyed doing craft projects and is presently working on

a quilt that involves appliqué. Betty is starting a "Coffee Group" SIG. Nothing fancy, just women getting together to share coffee and conversation. Various women have expressed an interest in SIGs for those interested in motorcycles, poker, board games, card games and golf.

Some SIGs that I envision include: Chat line; Spanish Spoken Here; Music/Music/Music...I have seen some very talented musicians and vocalists provide wonderful impromptu music. Let's Go Dancing for those weekly dances held around the area. How about Day trippers? Do you ever get the urge to go to the coast but don't particularly want to go by yourself? Are you into sports but are having a hard time getting a team together, a partner for tennis, golf or arm wrestling? Synergism is a good thing. Think about it.

If you would like to start a SIG for anything you enjoy doing that is legal and not too painful, give me a call. I will do all I can to help you get your SIG up and running. We have a diverse community in the Sacramento area and it is my sincere desire that SACWN and the SIGs reflect that diversity. It is really up to you and me.

Dee 443-2377

COME TO THE

SACWN PICNIC

SATURDAY, MAY 15

AT

EAST PORTAL PARK
(51ST & M STREETS)

See Page 4 for details.

"Sixty-six people responded suggesting 65 different names of performers, speakers, or events they would like to see".

Survey Results: Part 2 - Activities and Interests

In the last newsletter we shared the survey results dealing with the demographics of the respondents. We promised subsequent newsletters would have other results and comments from the survey. The following summarizes responses to questions about interest in activities and special events.

Forty-four people responded to the question, "I would like to regularly join other lesbians in the following types of group activities". Respondents expressed interest in the following areas: politics, games, a reading group, a discussion group, activities centered around animals (dogs, cats, horses and bird watching), activities centered around music and art, spirituality, activities involving kids or grand-kids, camping, the Top Ten group (for women over 50 and women who love women over 50), dances and picnics and/or barbecues.

Some of these items can be categorized as appropriate for

ongoing existing or potential special interest groups ("SIGs"), while others are more appropriate for one-time only community-wide activities. Based on these responses, and taking into consideration SACWN's financial constraints, community-wide activities that SACWN hopes to sponsor in the future include dances and picnics/barbecues.

Of the items appropriate as SIGs, two are already in existence. Rainbow Campers is a well-organized, active group for those interested in camping. The Top Ten group is an active group for those interested in socializing with women over 50. (See the SIG page for more information.)

Some of the other interests will soon be served by new SIGs that are forming now. If you don't see a SIG in your area of interest, consider it an opportunity for you to get involved! (See SIG page and article for additional information.)

A second related question on the survey was: "I would be likely to attend a performance by the following performer." This question generated numerous responses. Sixty-six people responded suggesting 65 different names of performers, speakers, or events they would like to see. This list has been turned over to Kelly Conway and the Lavender Underground for future consideration.

Should you have more suggestions for performers you would like to see or activities in which you would like to participate please use the comment section at the end of this newsletter or call the SACWN voice mail at (916) 451-8034. And watch for additional survey results in your future SACWN newsletters.

By popular request, we are
planning a
SUMMER DANCE
See next newsletter for details.
Help and helpers wanted, call
Anna at (916)344-0386.

LAVENDER LIBRARY OPENS ITS DOORS

Don't throw away those old love letters from long-dead romances, or those buttons and banners from yesterday's marches and campaigns. You may not want them anymore, but the Lavender Library, Archives, and Cultural Exchange does-along with books, photographs, periodicals and other memorabilia from Sacramento's gay history.

The library, the product of the work of several dedicated members of the community, found its first home in the B Street Theater complex the first weekend in February after nearly a year of planning, and is now open for business.

Inspired in part by the Jayne Rountree Memorial Library housed in the old Lambda Center location, planners began meeting in March 1998 when the future of that library seemed in doubt.

"Other things came into play, too," Gail Lang, one of the group members, said recently, recalling those early days. Although she couldn't speak for other members, she talked a little about what motivated her to join such a project. An inveterate reader and collector of books, Gail started wondering what would become of her own collection after she was gone. "I also started noticing how friends would throw things away, and how quickly significant happenings in Sacramento were forgotten," she said.

Other people had similar feelings. Gail got together with Michael Bennett, a medical librarian at Kaiser Permanente, who had set up the database for the Jayne Rountree library, and the two of them decided to call a meeting in March 1998. "Three or four people showed up, and we started meeting every week."

A turning point of sorts occurred in May, when the group had a community meeting in the offices of This Side Up, a short-lived community newspaper, now defunct. About 20 people attended that meeting to ask questions and give input. At a follow-up community meeting in July, the planners presented their intentions.

"We considered many alternatives, but, by then, we decided that we wanted to stay neutral, to represent and serve all segments of our community." The planning group continued to meet weekly in Gail's home until October, when it completed the paperwork for nonprofit status. Then they switched to bimonthly meetings. In the process, they formed a board of directors and elected officers. Currently, there are about 10 board members, but the articles of incorporation permit up to 13, and the search for diversified representation is continuing.

During the process, the group expressed and overcame many

differences of opinion. For example, the name itself reflects the diversity of interests various members of the group wanted to promote. For example, Gail's heart was set on having a library to preserve our literary heritage once books are out of print. Michael envisioned an archives of original materials preserving the history of diverse local organizations; while Kimberly Weer, currently the group's president, was a strong advocate for cultural-musical and artistic-exchange. In the end, all three ideas were incorporated into the name, and into the group's vision of the library's mission.

Currently, there are about 500 titles in the library's collection, with another 200 promised, and more coming in every day. Holdings also include videos, which will circulate, and periodicals, which will not circulate, but will be available for on-site reading. The current quarters, comprised of about 400 square feet in room numbers two and four of their current location, include one room for the books and one reading room.

Although the books can't circulate until they are inventoried and catalogued, the public is welcome to come in and browse. The library is open from 6-9 p.m. on Fridays, and noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Continued on page 7.

INTRODUCING YOUR STEERING COMMITTEE

Since last October, many people have been working to get SACWN reorganized as a volunteer organization. Recently they were all given the opportunity to commit themselves to being part of an ongoing steering committee. Eleven women agreed to participate for a year.

The women who have committed themselves to this task are Joyce Austin, Anna, Sue Charles, Dee, Phoenix Ewing, Joy Fisher, Gretchen Jung, Sandy McIntyre, Debbie Pearce, Nancy Voss and Betty White.

Since this is still an evolving process, however, matching the people with the committee assignments is still underway. Expect more changes to be announced in future newsletters, but let us tell you what we do know now.

Presently, committees and their contact persons are:

Activities Committee--Anna (344-0386)
Data Entry--Nancy (452-6007)
Events Committee--Kelly (992-6843)
Community Outreach Committee--Phoenix (372-6051)
Mailings Committee--Joy (452-5513)
Newsletter Committee--Sandy (772-8630)
Phone Committee--Gretchen (922-6287)
Special Interest Groups ("SIGs")--Dee (443-2377)
Website Coordinator--Debbie (desertwolf3@aol.com)
Welcoming Committee--Joyce (451-3018)

Women interested in participating in any of these committees are encouraged to contact the coordinators.



SACWN PICNIC, COME AND GET ACQUAINTED

To give members an opportunity to get to know one another in an informal setting, SACWN has reserved tables on the M street side of East Portal Park (at 51st and M streets in East Sacramento) for a picnic on Saturday May 15 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There are several small barbecues in the area we have reserved, and SACWN will furnish charcoal. Bring your own food and drinks (no alcohol allowed in city parks.) Also bring lawn chairs and any games you want to play. Sorry, no children under 18 years of age.

For more information, call SACWN at 451-8034.

SUZANNE SOCKS IT TO US AGAIN!

For the third time in three years, Suzanne Westenhofer brought her bawdy brand of lesbian humor to an appreciative Sacramento audience at the Crest Theater on March 20.

More than 600 people laughed until their sides hurt and tears were streaming down their faces as the lesbian comic turned a verbal spotlight on everything from love under the covers (with the resident cat watching!) to butch-femme personality differences.

No topic was too private for her incisive wit, and from the

audience reaction, it was clear she spoke of experiences familiar to many of her listeners. Only at the end of her show did she drop the mask of humor for a moment to direct a serious plea to the audience to "come out of the closet." If we each had one-tenth the daring of this outspoken woman, the world would be a much gayer place--in many respects!

Thanks, Suzanne for a wonderful show. And thanks, SACWN and Lavender Underground for bringing her to us.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

SACWN's Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are small, friendly groups of women who get together monthly (if not more often) to share activities of mutual interest. New members are always welcomed, so we encourage you to call the contact people listed to find out what activities are being planned.

Have an interest but don't see such a group listed below? No problem. Just call Dee (443-2377) who will help you get your new group advertised in the next newsletter.

Half Fast Hiking Group

This is a well organized, friendly group of serious hikers who know how to have fun. We are entering our third successful year of day-hiking with hikes scheduled once a month all year long. We walk at a comfortable pace and usually average about five miles round trip on hikes that are rated "easy" to "moderate". Call for a calendar of events and an information sheet. All newcomers receive a warm welcome. Please join us for the time of your life!

Ann 443-3638

Craftswomen

Wanted: Women who like to craft - quilting, woodcrafting, ceramics, decoupage, tole painting, mosaic, macramé, scrapbooking, you name it. Do you like to do handicrafts and enjoy the company of other women while crafting? There are women who are willing to share their talents as well -- so far, woodcarving and mosaics.

I am starting a SIG for crafters to meet once a month for a demonstration of crafts. Those who share a particular craft interest may want to get together more often and this is good. I know I am more likely to work on my ceramics and quilting if I am working with others. Please give me a call if you are interested.

Phoenix, 372-6051

Coffee Group

Come for coffee at New Helvetia, 1215 19th Street, on Sunday, April 25th at 2:30 p.m. Nothing needed but you and your conversation.

In May the Coffee Group will meet at New Helvetia on Sunday, the 23rd at 2:30 p.m.

Call Betty, 731-7192, or just show up on the date noted above.

COMING SOON:

Art & Entertainment Special Interest Group

Newcomers

New to the community? New to SACWN? Let's get together for brunch on Saturday, April 24th at 11:00 am at Ettore's, 2376 Fair Oaks Blvd, near Howe Avenue. Please call: Diana, 487-3124, by April 22 to RSVP and for information about May meeting.

Top 10

Top 10 is a group of women over 50 and women who love women over 50. We get together once a month for dinner at local restaurants. We also enjoy gathering for special at-home potlucks. Our next dinner will be at Wonderful Chinese Restaurant on Saturday April 17 at 6:00 pm. Our May gathering will be a Sunday brunch at the Trellis Restaurant on May 2nd at 11:00 am. We also are in need of a new coordinator. For information, please call Paula at 967-0560.

Sacramento Therapy Resources

*Susan "Gaye" Marchini, MA, MSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker LCS-15812*

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Sacramento, CA. 95825 916/646-4143
E-mail: GSusanMarchini@email.msn.com*

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) cont.

Disabled Lesbians

I am starting a support SIG for Lesbians who are disabled. If you are interested in participating in this group, please call

Jane G. at (530)346-6903

Pool Group

Do you like to play pool for fun? If you are interested in getting together with other women to play pool, please call Mary J, 731-8531

Rainbow Campers

Camp outs for 1999 are listed below. Call the Wagon Master indicated for each trip and they will provide you with necessary details. Since reservations are required, the earlier you call, the better.

April 16-18	Coloma, On the American River; Mary 723-5269
May 28-31	Edgewater Resort, Soda Lake, Clearlake; Denise 641-8565
June 18-20	Casini Ranch, Duncan Mills; Joyce 929-3074
July 16-18	Bear River Lake, Route 88 past Jackson; Kathleen 684-3741
Aug. 20-22	Wright's Beach, On the Coast; Carolyn 961-4722
Sept. 24-26	Coloma, On the American River; Mary 723-5269

LESBIAN READER'S REVIEWS

Aimee & Jaguar by Erica Fischer is a spellbinding account of the love shared by Lilly "Aimee" Wust, a mother of four and wife of a Nazi officer, and Felice "Jaguar" Schragenheim, a Jew living underground in Berlin during World War II. This true story uses actual photographs and writings of the two women to illustrate not only the developing intensity of their relationship, but also the horrendous dangers they bravely faced while Felice struggled to survive.


From their first tentative expressions of attraction to the blossoming of

passion, their exchange of rings and commitment vows, and the desperate measures to avoid Felice's capture, the reader is allowed to hear their very thoughts, hopes and fears. Despite the unimaginable difficulties of their situation, one learns that Lilly experiences the same type of awakening which resonates for so many of us as the result of a first lesbian relationship: "You know that you've brought my world crashing down around me....When I think of the years I have wasted!...I thought perhaps I didn't truly know how to love. Now I know that I can... You really are my 'first person'."


As the Nazi stranglehold closed in on them, Lilly and Felice found themselves

fighting insurmountable odds to stay together. This extraordinarily passionate and heartrending account provides a rare and personal look at the love and strength of two women whose commitment to each other defied the brutality of their time. One cannot fail to be moved reading of the indomitable power of a love which transcends the most horrific of human circumstances.

This book review was provided by a SACWN member. We invite you readers to become published reviewers also. Feel free to submit reviews of your favorite book to SACWN at P.O. Box 340593, Sacramento, CA 95834-0593.



**Books
& Friends**



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95816
916-447-7258 FAX: 916-447-7259



Lavender Library

Continued from page 3

Gail expressed pride at the speed with which the library found a home. "Many collections in other cities were housed in people's homes for years before a place was finally found."

Even so, the search for a home in Sacramento was not easy. Kimberly, the board president, "cruised the neighborhoods" looking for unadvertised space. At the end of December, she learned that some rooms in the B Street theater complex might become available, and the board decided to make a commitment. The library is now located at 2727 B Street, Suite #2.

"For one thing, we had applied for a grant from the Lambda Freedom Fair, and received an award, but it was contingent on the library having a public location." The library's current home may not be its permanent home. The board is renting the offices on a month-to-month basis, and is continuing a search for larger quarters. One promising midtown location the group is investigating currently would provide 900 square feet.

The additional space won't go to waste. The group envisions providing a home for various groups which will present programs and events and informational and educational services for our community and the public at large. A writer's group has been mentioned, as well as possible various

study groups. The library even hopes to foster individuals and groups to preserve our history by collecting oral histories and writing about local gay and lesbian history.

To realize its vision for growth and expansion, the library needs and will continue to need volunteers. While a "rainbow" of monetary categories is envisioned for cardholders, with each



category having specified borrowing privileges, less affluent members of the community can gain access to the library collection by donating their time.

Volunteers will be trained by Michael Bennett in basic library skills. The tasks at hand are many and varied. People are needed to catalogue and inventory the collection, to put covers on the books to help preserve them, write thank you notes for donations,

plan fund-raisers; an artist is needed to create a logo, a publicist to write releases for the local press. Interested persons can contact Michael Bennett at 927-9181.

In the meantime, Gail is thrilled that the books she has collected over the years will have a permanent home. Even if, for some reason, the library should become defunct at some time in the future, its collection will be preserved, because its articles of incorporation provide for the transfer of holdings to other similar collections, such as the Gay and Lesbian Historical Archives in San Francisco, the Mazer Collection in Los Angeles, and the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York. The Lavender Library is utilizing the same cataloguing system as these other libraries in order to facilitate linking with them.

But the future looks bright for the Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange. The board is dedicated to building its reputation in the community. Donations of books are welcome, as are donations of local newspapers and magazines that have come and gone, photographs, videotapes, even matchbook covers of bars that once existed but no longer do-any memorabilia that will tell future generations about who we were and how we lived.

For everyone involved, the opening of the library is the realization of a dream-and it's only the beginning!

WOMEN'S COMING OUT GROUP

Discussion/ support group for women at any stage of the "coming out" process. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Lioness Bookstore. (April 7th and 21st; May 5th and 19th.) For information, call De at (916) 723-7849.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Lesbian group using a discussion format to explore relationship and personal growth issues. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Lioness Bookstore. (April 14 and 28; May 12 and 26.) For information, call De at (916) 723-7849.

RENTAL

Rental available to nonsmoker, drug free, responsible female in beautiful Camino/Apple Hill. Sunset views in downstairs with 2bdm/1ba with Large kitchen, stackable washer/dryer space. Horse boarding available for a fee. First/Last month rent (\$ 650 a mo. + utilities + dep). Private and secluded. Call 530-622-6241 leave message.



6420 Freeport Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95822
(916) 428-9202
FAX (916) 428-9206

Kelly Ryan D.V.M.
Veterinarian

SACWN ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card	\$25
Two column ad.	\$40
Quarter page	\$50
Half page	\$90
Full Page	\$160
Classified Ads	\$0.40 per word



Lioness Books, 2224 J Street
442-4657

Upcoming Events:

April 9 (7:30 PM)
April 24 (2:00 PM)
June 4-6

Karin Kallmaker, Reading & Signing

Peggy Herring, Reading & Signing

Women's Sacred Circle Camping Trip

Sing, dance and rejoice at a spiritual weekend in the country!
(Call 442-4657 for more information and to sign up)

Hours: T-F, 11-7, Sat. 12-6, Sun 12-5

Classified Ad:

Early California oak dining table with four chairs, 30" x 33" closed, becomes 60" x 33" dough board/table when open, reasonably priced, looking for good home.

Dee 443-2377

WANTED:

Good Homes for our precious puppies.

Have 8 1/2 AKC Lab/1/2 Traveling salesman.

Ready April 21st.

Will have first shots. See the Mom (Dad is on the Road)

Call Sandy or JaNine: (916) 772-8630

Work #: (916) 772-8640


April 3	Gay and Lesbian Sierrans: Shingle Springs bicycling	Eve (916) 927-8507
April 4	Gay and Lesbian Sierrans: Day Hike	Suzanne (530) 668-0691
April 9	Gay and Lesbian Sierrans: Slide show and general meeting	Ray (916) 421-6209
April 10	Gay and Lesbian Sierrans: mountain biking at Spenceville Wildlife Area	Ray (916) 421-6209
April 11	Gay and Lesbian Sierrans: Jepson Prairie guided nature walk	Barbara (707) 449-9370
April 20	Gay and Lesbian Sierrans: Governing committee meeting	Ray (916) 421-6209
April 23	Gay and Lesbian Sierrans: Dining out	Launa (916) 736-9333
April 24	Gay and Lesbian Sierrans: Briones Park hike	Eve (916) 927-8507
April 25	Gay and Lesbian Sierrans: Bicycling on American River Parkway	Connie (916) 972-9230
April 29	Gay and Lesbian Sierrans: Newsletter folding	Ray (916) 421-6209
May 8	Gay and Lesbian Sierrans: Amador county bicycling	Raelene (916) 704-9591
May 8-9	Gay and Lesbian Sierrans: Kayak and hiking at Pt. Reyes and Tomales Bay	Ray (916) 421-6209

BREAST CANCER FUNDRAISER

The singing group Merlot and the 40+ Group are planning a breast cancer fundraiser for October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is not too early to plan and lots of help is needed to book a facility, book additional performers, get donations of seed money, work on tickets and advertising.

You are invited to attend an introductory planning meeting to discuss the details and to establish committees. This is a potluck brunch meeting, so please bring a dish to share and whatever you would like to drink. Also, bring your musical instruments as there will be a jam session after the meeting and all are welcome to participate.

WHEN: Saturday, April 3rd
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
WHERE: Josie's recreation hall
For RSVP and directions, please call:
Michele at (916) 683-1365
Jacquie at (916) 927-4907



Breast Cancer Is A Lesbian Issue!

Chose a 'bosom buddy' and agree to perform BSE (Breast Self-Exam) on the same day each month. Get to know your breasts!

Women 40 and over
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Get a **FREE**
breast exam and mammogram
from lesbian friendly
providers.

CALL:
The Health Education Council
Breast Cancer Early Detection
Program
916.556.3344
(Regan or Kathy)
for a free
"Breast Health and Lesbians"
information packet

Interested in being involved with the Lesbian Advisory Task Group? We need your help in meeting the breast health needs of the Lesbian community.
Please call 916.556.3344 for further information.

YWCA Benefit Concert

Enjoy a night of wonderful music with SONiA and support one of Sacramento's greatest assets, the Sacramento YWCA. SONiA of 'disappear fear' will perform her award winning music at McClatchy High School Auditorium on May 7, 1999 at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased at the door, at Lioness Books, 2224 J Street, Sacramento, at The Open Book, 910 21st Street, Sacramento, or by calling (916) 441-2773.

The Open Book will host a special sneak preview performance the night before, May 6, SONiA's benefit concert at 7:30.

SONiA is a founding sister of the band 'disappear fear'. Her folk rock guitar has touched the feminine spirit for over ten years. SONiA is donating her talents to create a special evening of music for the benefit of the YWCA.

GLAMA award winning musical artist, SONiA, tours constantly, including the Lilith Fair as the opening act for the Indigo Girls. Her music has a distinctly female point of view and resonates with the goals of the Sacramento YWCA.

The YWCA, located at 17th and 'L' Streets, is renewing its goal of service to women in Sacramento. It has been a resource for local women for over sixty years and is committed to supporting programs for women in our community.

A variety of programs are planned including yoga, tai chi, financial planning and computer skills. These services are targeted at working women, divorcing women and teenagers. Also scheduled are exercise and self-defense classes for the mature woman.

The YWCA will provide reasonably priced meeting rooms for conferences and monthly meetings of its members and other service organizations. The YWCA also intends to help meet the needs of thousands of working women in the downtown area who need a better place to network and socialize, a place that they can call their own.

Equality Begins at Home: A Call to Activism

Approximately 1,000 gay activists from all parts of California converged on Sacramento March 21st for a rally and other activities sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and co-sponsored in California by California Alliance of Pride and Equality (CAPE).

The event, dubbed "Equality Begins at Home" (EBAH) was nationwide in scope, with similar events occurring simultaneously in all 50 states for the purpose of promoting equality and justice for the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgendered (LGBT) community.

In California, EBAH began Sunday morning with an interfaith service on the west steps of the capitol building. Clergy members from many faiths were present in support of LGBT rights, with particular attention placed on issues of the family. One of the most moving speakers was Sacramento's very own poet Michael Gorman, representing the pagan community. His heartfelt words touched and united the crowd, bringing the diverse audience together and dispelling any feelings of separation.

Following the interfaith service, there was a wreath-laying ceremony at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Capitol Park. One of the highlights was the wreath laid by Jennifer Richards, from Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl's office. The Sacramento Men's Chorus performed a rendition of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again" that moved many in the crowd to tears. The featured speaker, Bates Botting, talked about the "realities of war being the names of those behind us on the Memorial Wall."

The main event of the day, the EBAH Rally, began at noon back on the west steps of the capitol. San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano took the stage as master of ceremonies. California gained national attention as Kerry Lobel, executive director of NGTLF rallied the crowd of 1,000 to promote equality and justice at the state level.

The focus of the rally was proposed legislation pending in the state legislature affecting civil rights, family issues, and hate crime concerns of the LGBT community. Pending groundbreaking civil rights legislation in California includes the following bills:

- AB 222 - Dignity for All Students Act (Kuehl-Santa Monica), CAPE cosponsored;
- AB 26 - Domestic Partnership Registry (Migden-SF), CAPE cosponsored;
- AB 103 - HIV Case Reporting (Migden-SF);
- AB 107 - Health Care Benefits for Domestic Partners of Public Employees (Knox-LA), CAPE cosponsored; and
- SB 75 - Domestic Partners Registry (Murray-LA), CAPE cosponsored.

There were many speakers from all walks of life at the rally. The Sacramento crowd was particularly touched by Reverend Donald Fado's acknowledgment of Jeanne Barnett and Ellie Charlton, present in the audience as he honored their holy union earlier this year.

The rally was a call to activism for our communities. Kimberly Weer, one of CAPE's organizers, expressed the opinion that the Sunday EBAH rally was an important steppingstone for those who believe in full civil rights for our LGBT community.

The rally ended on a high note with the coming out antics of Jim Merrick, a recently "out" school teacher from Bakersfield, California. Jim approached the stage dressed as a traditional, conservative science teacher. Methodically, he began to disrobe--first, the jacket of oppression, then the tie of the closet...until he was wondrously transformed into a proud, out, gay man of action, calling all to join him in leaving the oppressive closet behind and in standing tall and proud under the rainbow colors of the gay community. He drew heartfelt laughter and enthusiastic applause from the supportive crowd.

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☐ Telephone

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Waiver - I am aware that certain risks or injuries could occur arising from my participation in SACWN, Inc.. events and/or special interest groups. In consideration of the right to participate in such events, some of which may involve strenuous activity (i.e. hiking, golfing, skiing, cycling, etc.), I hereby assume all risks and will hold SACWN, Inc. and its members harmless from all liability which may arise in connection with these activities.

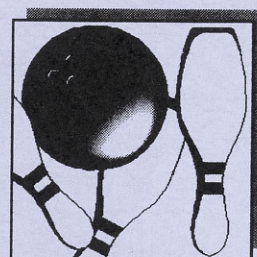
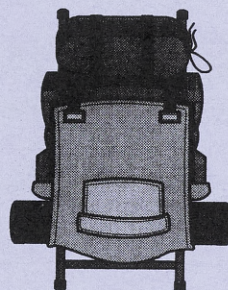
Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

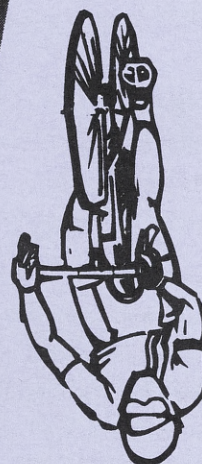
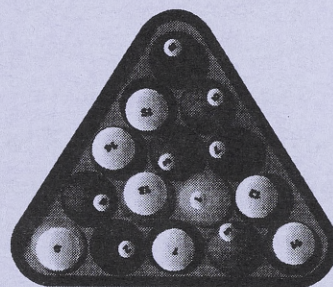
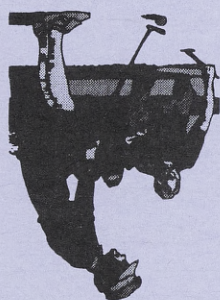
COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, VIEWPOINT

Want to contact us but don't want to write? SACWN has voice mail! Call (916)451-8034, leave a message and we will respond as soon as possible.

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ACTIVITIES ISSUE



P.O. Box 340593
Sacramento, CA 95834-0593

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED